

Dear League Members,

During this time, sheltering in our homes, we are continuing to look for ways to support our democracy. Technology is a great way of staying engaged and informed. Your Board is working to use the latest technology to set up the Annual Meeting. The meeting will not happen at our usual time in May, we are planning to have it June 23rd, including technology that will enable members to participate from their homes. Stay on the lookout for the Annual Meeting Kit.

The State of the Community Luncheon has a tentative date of September 25th, though we are watching for the latest information on the coronavirus epidemic to be sure no one is at risk. The latest information will be shared as soon as there is clarity on the safety of having a large gathering. The August parade celebrating the 100th year of the passage of the 19th Amendment has already been cancelled.

There are still many issues the League wants to keep members informed about. Governor Newsom has announced that California requires that all citizens have the ability to vote by mail in the November election. Be sure to read Dave's article in this VOTER.

The housing crisis continues to challenge California residents, particularly seniors in a rural community. The VOTER highlights an approach to address the issues, Life Care Humboldt. We share this information to help the members stay informed of the issues.

To all our members, please stay safe, stay healthy, and I look forward to seeing all of you soon, in person or through technology!

**Deborah Downs, LWVHC President**

***Our Mission Statement...***

A nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

***SAVE the (NEW) DATE***  
*for the*  
***STATE of the COMMUNITY***  
***LUNCHEON (SOCL)***  
***2020***

**Due to COVID-19**  
**the SOCL**  
**has been postponed until**  
**Friday, September 25th**

**Ticket information can be found in**  
**this VOTER as well as at**  
**LWVHC.org**

**We will be celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote as well as our honorees.**

**Looking forward to still seeing all of you**

**Stay Safe, Stay Well**

**New League Members**  
Ann Lindsay

## NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of CALIFORNIA

April 2020

Dear League Members,

We are writing to share with you our current efforts advocating for California voters to safely cast their ballots in the November Presidential General Election. Advocates, counties, and the state government are all working diligently to determine the changes necessary for the November elections and to begin implementing those modifications. Our recommendations are geared toward maintaining the integrity of our democracy, fostering the voting rights of historically underrepresented communities, and designing a safe, healthy election for all eligible Californians. Feel free to share this message or [the one posted on our website](#).

The League of Women Voters of California has fought for voting rights and to remove barriers to civic participation for 100 years. The challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic are unique but not insurmountable. For the last few weeks, the League has been collaborating daily with the Secretary of State's office, elections officials, and other good government and civil rights groups to develop plans that will ensure California voters are able to make their voices heard, safely and equitably, in November's election.

The League, in coalition with a number of other organizations\*, is advocating for a set of recommendations to achieve a successful presidential election. We believe that all registered California voters should be provided a vote-by-mail ballot. However, despite its importance as a vehicle to address the pandemic, vote-by-mail is not a solution for everyone. Many communities are unfamiliar with the vote-by-mail process and many people need in-person options for a variety of reasons -- including getting assistance, registering and voting on the same day, and being able to cast a ballot with confidence in the manner that the voter is accustomed.

The League is particularly mindful that voting by mail holds the potential to disenfranchise communities of color, youth, language minorities, people with disabilities, people with low income, and those who are unhoused, housing insecure or geographically mobile. Changes to our voting process must be done in ways that will protect voters who are already underrepresented in our democratic system.

In addition to maintaining robust in-person options while simultaneously sending every registered voter a ballot, we are advocating for: maximized use of ballot drop boxes to expand voting opportunities and reduce lines at in-person locations; transparency and solicitation of public comment on election changes to ensure that community voices are factored into each county's planning; and the allocation of significant resources for public education and engagement, with a focus on communities that do not traditionally vote by mail.

Thank you for all you do in your communities to empower voters and defend democracy. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Doute, Executive Director

**LWVHC — ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 23rd at 7pm**  
***via ZOOM***

KEET-TV and the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County  
are commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment  
which gave women the right to vote

## Enter the CELEBRATE the VOTE Contest

Create a video, comic strip, painting, drawing,  
game, song, poem, essay or short dialogue  
and enter to win cash prizes and  
a chance to see your creation on KEET-TV!

**LWW** LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS



Contest is open to students in grades 4-12  
**DEADLINE for ENTRY is JUNE 1st**

*submit your entry with your name and grade to: [contest@keet-tv.org](mailto:contest@keet-tv.org)*

**Suggested topics:**

**How did the passage of the 19th Amendment influence our lives?**

**What were dramatic moments and personalities in the struggle for the vote?**

**What are important issues to consider in the upcoming election?**



## Life Care Humboldt

*Ann Lindsay, Life Care Humboldt Board President*

As the weeks of home isolation drag on, I find myself even more thankful that I live in Humboldt County. I moved to the Bay Area in 2011 to work at Stanford but have returned home to Humboldt. Since I do not want to leave this community again, I am inspired to work on establishing a senior life plan community here, Life Care Humboldt.

Life plan communities offer a continuum of living arrangements — independent living, assisted living, memory care and advanced nursing care — in one location to permit people to age among friends in a supportive community. There is no such option within 200 miles, and Humboldt seniors have been forced to leave their community connections behind and move away in search of supportive living situations.

Life Care Humboldt became a nonprofit corporation in January 2020. I am a member of LCH's board of directors along with Pat Girczyc, Marc Chaton, JoAnn Schuch, Patty Berg, Maggie Banducci, Greg Orsini, and George Williamson. Many others are volunteering to make Life Care Humboldt happen.

Life Care Humboldt's values include being inclusive, actively engaged in the broader community, engaging in sustainable practices that improve our environments, fostering a culture of generosity, and being a good employer.

An initial feasibility study last August confirmed that there is a sufficient population base and potential demand for new services to support a nonprofit senior life plan community in Humboldt. The next steps are to generate local interest, solicit ideas from local people about what offerings would attract them, secure an option on property for a Life Care Humboldt facility, conduct fundraising for further planning, and start to secure social investment funds. That sounds like a lot, but we are determined to succeed.

Social isolation due to COVID-19 has foiled our plans for in-person events but we are planning "virtual house parties" on Zoom. The host/hostess will invite friends to learn about Life Care Humboldt and give feedback about what amenities and design features they prefer. Life Care Humboldt will provide a facilitator to run the discussion and answer questions as they arise.

If you would like to volunteer to host a house party, send an e-mail to [Lch@lifecarehumboldt.org](mailto:Lch@lifecarehumboldt.org).

For more information on Life Care Humboldt, its organizers and vision for a vibrant community to help Humboldt seniors age closer to home in the company of friends, go to [lifecarehumboldt.org](http://lifecarehumboldt.org) and join the mailing list for updates. You can also learn more at our Life Care Humboldt Facebook page.



## Thank you, League volunteers!

by Byrd Lochtie

Last month I thanked all the volunteers who helped prepare and mail the election materials for the Bear River Election on March 28, 2020. At the time the April VOTER went to press we were already receiving Mailed-In Ballots for their regular Tribal Election as well as for the Wiyot Tribal Election on April 4, 2020. And then came all the orders for social distancing, masks, gloves and shelter-in-place, especially for anyone over 65 years of age. That changed everything.

The Tribes chose not to cancel or postpone their elections, and we still collected all the Mailed-In Ballots. However, I chose to pull the League out of the actual election day work that we usually do because I could not see a way to keep League volunteers six feet away from voters who came in to show their ID and sign the Voter Roster. I did offer to provide League members to count the ballots at the end of each election as long as we were in a sanitized room with masks, gloves and wipes. Thanks to Fawn Lopez at Wiyot, and Executive Secretary **Brittany Gonzalez** and the Bear River Election Committee of **Charmin Bailey, Ally Kennedy** and **Jennifer Jenkins**, both tribes provided excellent space and materials for us to count the ballots. Bear River had a room with a window into the actual election space so we also provided observers on the day of the election.

I want to thank observers **Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Maggie Augustine, Shelley Holstein** and **Rudy Ramp** for taking shifts at Bear River to observe the election on March 28, 2020. They were impressed with the organization and maintenance of a safe environment according to all the principles of social distancing and protection of voters and workers. There were even two hand-washing stations by the door so people washed their hands before they could enter the election!

Thank you, too, to the League volunteers who counted ballots with me on March 28—**Anne Hartline** and **Rudy Ramp** and April 4—**Anne Hartline** and **Shelley Holstein**. We managed to get all the signatures needed using scanned attachments and even Anne and Rudy coming to my house in masks and gloves to sign on my front porch! Thanks to **every Leaguer** who helped with these elections.

There was one last wrinkle to the Bear River Election during these challenging times. The election for Tribal Chairperson was decided by **one vote**. Yes, it does happen. So the losing candidate challenged the election, his right under their Constitution. The League ballot counters, who are designated the Election Board, followed the Bear River Constitution and Election Ordinance in the section on Disputes, and managed to hold a Google meeting with the two candidates, the Bear River Election Committee, the Tribal Executive Secretary and the Election Board. Thanks to **Brittany** who set up the meeting for us and to **Charmin** who kept excellent minutes of our meeting.

The Election Board did research about the issues raised by the challenger, and the members were prepared to explain our actions during the discussion after the two candidates had a chance to present their concerns. After all the discussion, the Election Board voted to uphold the decisions we had made when counting the ballots and confirm the Preliminary Report that had been posted on the day of the election. The challenger then exercised his final right to appeal to the Tribal Council that has the final say in this type of dispute. The Tribal Council denied the appeal and confirmed the Preliminary Report of the Election Board.

I am so proud of the League members and the Bear River Tribal Members who really stepped up during this challenging time and **Made Democracy Work!**

## **Vote by Mail in California**

*by Dave Rosso, VOTER editor*

On May 8, 2020, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order “confirming that every voter will be able to vote by mail in the November election,” adding that his order “will allow California and its counties to begin preparing for that election now.”

In the executive order, Newsom said it is “unknown to what degree COVID-19 will pose a threat to public health in November, and California and its counties must begin taking action now to procure supplies, secure polling places, enlist volunteers and draw up plans, among other steps, to ensure that the November 3, 2020, General Election is held in a manner that is accessible, secure and safe.”

The executive order signed by Newsom states that “each county elections officials shall transmit vote-by-mail ballots for the November 3, 2020, General Election to all voters who are, as of the last day on which vote-by-mail ballots may be transmitted to voters in connection with that election, registered to vote in that election.”

In April, the League of Women Voters California, had advocated that voters be assured voters would be able to vote safely.

In a release, the LWVC said it has “fought for voting rights and to remove barriers to civic participation for 100 years. The challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic are unique but not insurmountable. For the last few weeks, the League has been collaborating daily with the Secretary of State’s office, elections officials, and other good government and civil rights groups to develop plans that will ensure California voters are able to make their voices heard, safely and equitably, in November’s election.”

The LWVC added:

“The League is particularly mindful that voting by mail holds the potential to disenfranchise communities of color, youth, language minorities, people with disabilities, people with low income, and those who are unhoused, housing insecure or geographically mobile. Changes to our voting process must be done in ways that will protect voters who are already underrepresented in our democratic system.

“In addition to maintaining robust in-person options while simultaneously sending every registered voter a ballot, we are advocating for: maximized use of ballot drop boxes to expand voting opportunities and reduce lines at in-person locations; transparency and solicitation of public comment on election changes to ensure that community voices are factored into each county’s planning; and the allocation of significant resources for public education and engagement, with a focus on communities that do not traditionally vote by mail.”

## The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

www.lwvhc.org  
info@lwvhc.org

### 2019-2020 BOARD

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### **FOLLOW US —**

### **WE HAVE SEVERAL WAYS!!**

**WEBSITE = lwvhc.org**

**FACEBOOK = League of  
Women Voters Humboldt County**

**TWITTER = @LWVHumboldt**



## Renew Now or Help Someone Become a LWVHC Member!

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Membership dues and donations to the LWVHC are not tax-deductible.

Donations to the LWVHC-Education Fund, through the Humboldt Area Foundation, are tax deductible.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1st

Visit [www.LWVHC.org](http://www.LWVHC.org) or mail the form below!

Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

Yes! I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and become a voice for citizens and a force for change.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Single Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$105 Family Membership  
(2 in same household)

\_\_\_\_\_ I also want to gift a membership!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing for my annual membership renewal:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

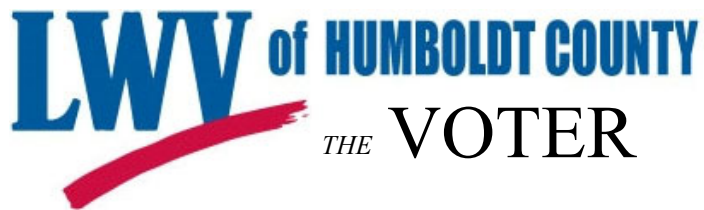
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Join Now!**



P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

### **Household Dues Increase**

The Board of Directors has placed a motion for a dues increase for household members in the Annual Meeting Kit.

The increase from \$105 to \$115 is in keeping with the state as well as national dues assessment for household members, rounded up.

If the household dues increase is passed, any dues paid for household members *prior* to the Annual Meeting can still be paid at the \$105 rate. But, if passed, household members dues paid *after* the Annual Meeting should be at the \$115 rate.

Individual dues remains the same at \$75.